

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION COA-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SCS-03 L-02 EB-07 SCA-01 H-01

INR-07 DLOS-03 PRS-01 CG-00 DOTE-00 SS-15 NSC-05

NSCE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 INT-05 COME-00 /058 W

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O 071645Z FEB 75

FM AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3672

INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL GUAYAQUIL 232

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EFIS, PLOS, EC US

SUBJ: SEIZURE OF US TUNA VESSELS: CONFISCATION OF CATCH

1. AFTERNOON OF FEB. 7, ARTHUR SOUSA (ZAPATA) AND GEORGE GLIGO (STARKIST) MET WITH CONGEN AND CONSUL KELLER. SOUSA SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN INFORMED BY VICENTE YULEE THAT ECUADOREAN AUTHORITIES CONSIDERING OFFERING TO BOAT OWNERS TO BUY BACK CATCH ON CAPTURED VESSELS IN LIEU OF PHYSICAL CONFISCATION. SOUSA HIMSELF THINKS THIS A GOOD IDEA AND HAS SO INFORMED HIS COMPANY'S PRESIDENT. SOUSA NOTED THAT ACCEPTING A BUY-BACK OPTION WOULD AVOID FURTHER DELAY IN VESSELS' DEPARTURE FROM SALINAS. HE BELIEVES THIS DELAY COULD BE LENGTHY BECAUSE UNLOADING PRIORITY WOULD IN ALL LIKELIHOOD BE GIVEN TO BOATS OF NATIONAL TUNA FLEET WHICH HAVE NO REFRIGERATION FACILITIES AND THEREFORE MUST BE UNLOADED IMMEDIATELY.

2. SOUSA SAID HE HAD HEARD OF MEETING OF CAPTAINS OF SEIZED VESSELS TO BE HELD AFTERNOON OF FEB. 7 TO DISCUSS IDEA OF CATCH DESTRUCTION. HE SAID HE HAD GIVEN ORDERS TO CAPTAINS OF HIS FOUR BOATS NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN FISH CONTAMINATION AND THAT HE BELIEVED CAPTAINS WOULD FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS OF BOAT OWNERS IN THIS MATTER. HE NOTED ONLY EXCEPTION MIGHT BE CAPT. DAVID RICO, MASTER OF A. K. STROM, BECAUSE RICO HIMSELF IS IMPORTANT STOCKHOLDER HIS VESSEL.

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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